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By Appointment.

KUHN & CO.

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THE ORIENTAL FINE ART DEPOT.

Known as the Oldest and most reliable Establishment in the East.

Hongkong, 24 February, 1891.

WINE AND SPIRITS

BY APPOINTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & CO. LIMITED.

(Established 1841.)

HONGKONG.

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but it is only very lately that any person connected with the literary class has been actually identified with these lamentable outrages. It is now ascertained, that a son of Hsien Fung-cheng was the author of the incendiary placards which led to the attack on the French Mission at Wushih. That the outbreak at Wushih was not attended by the same sanguinary results as the riot at Wanchow, where Messrs. Acheson and Gnanan were brutally murdered, was a more accident, due perhaps to the prompt intervention of the local authorities. It is the charge, in China to hold a father responsible for his son's misdeeds, and it is probable that His Excellency Hsien will be recalled by the Peking Government and degraded in consequence of his son's delinquency, if the young man be found guilty. The latter has, it is reported, been named as a prominent member of a secret society, and should this prove a true bill the Chinese Minister to the four European countries above named will have to pay heavily, besides losing his post. It may be said that Hsien should have brought up his son in better ways, that the author of a work on "International Relations" should have taught his children to respect them, and also the dynasty he serves. But the young man may have fallen among bad companions, aspiring souls who think they can run the state machine better than the old wumen at Peking, and who are preliminary sought to stir up a trouble with foreigners to attract the attention of the Central Government.

As we have mentioned above, there can be little doubt the Chinese Government will visit the sins of the son on the father, and the Mercury maintains, in a rather heated and somewhat wandering article, that it would be most desirable if it should do, because of the mischief which it would do, amongst the Chinese if the action of the son were to pass unquestioned. "What," cries the Mercury, "could the ignominious punishment of European Powers who permitted their national flag in China to be thus outraged by the son of the Chinese Minister to these countries, if these Powers continued to treat that Minister as a *persona grata*, to receive him at court and lavish the choicest diplomatic courtesies upon him, who, according to Chinese ideas and Chinese law, is virtually and personally responsible for the misdeeds of his son and even remote members of his family? The peculiar system of mutual responsibility between father and son in China must be remembered in dealing with this matter. According to our code the father cannot be held responsible for the acts of his son, or vice versa, but with the Chinese the rigidity of the rules of mutual responsibility are relaxed, and of this we see examples every day. Therefore in the eyes of the common herd of his countrymen, the present Chinese Minister to the three European Powers, honoured with his divided attentions, incurs the fullest responsibility for the atrocious conduct of his hopeful son and heir. This is rather hard on poor Hsien, of course, but the fact of his liability according to his national code remains, and hence there is little doubt that he will have to go. The truth is that the Chinese Government have lately moved their feet partly no doubt by a desire to retreat—sought to reduce expenditure in the maintenance of foreign representatives. Not only have they accredited one Minister to several first class Powers but they have in the person of Hsien sent an official inferior rank to his predecessors in office. If Chinese Representatives are received by Western Governments, those Governments, which ought now to be fully on their guard against Chinese trickery, should be especially careful to insist on the Representative having proper credentials, to see that no slight is intended by his being accredited to other Courts in addition, and to take special note of the dress worn by the Chinese Minister and his Attachés at state functions and levees. As our Shanghai contemporary very justly remarks, there has for some years been a strong disposition at the English Foreign Office to let such matters of detail slide, but it is none the less foolish and reprehensible, because it encourages the Chinese to proceed to greater efforts to elicit indignities on the despised barbarians. We might well afford to smile at all these childish attempts of the Chinese Government to heap covert insults on our heads if we did not know that its effect on foreign intercourse was really disastrous, encouraging the Chinese people as it does to regard all foreigners as inferiors, whom they may safely despise. The arrogance of the Chinese has grown prodigiously since the establishment of Chinese Embassies abroad, and this growth is not unconnected with the contemporaneous decay of the influence of the Foreign Ministers at Peking.

H.M.S. *Beagle* returned to Shanghai on the 28th inst. The P. & O. steamer *Shanghai* left Antwerp for this port on the 1st inst. The Chinese cruiser *Kungkuang* left here yesterday morning for Canton. The P. & O. steamer *Thetis* left Bombay for this port on the 31st July. The Agents (Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.) inform us that the steamer *Arcton* is expected from Calcutta, left Singapore for this port yesterday.

A Bangkok contemporary has the following note:—The Government of Siam has issued a notice to the effect that any person who should be guilty of any offence against the laws of Siam, or who should be guilty of any offence against the laws of any other country, should be liable to be punished by the laws of Siam. This notice was issued in consequence of the fact that several persons had been guilty of offences against the laws of Siam, and the Government had decided to issue a notice to the effect that any person who should be guilty of any offence against the laws of Siam, or who should be guilty of any offence against the laws of any other country, should be liable to be punished by the laws of Siam.

The Bangkok Times says that the most recent arrival of Hsien Fung-cheng, the Chinese Minister to the Court of St. James—who is likewise accredited to France, Italy, and Belgium—held a brilliant reception at the Legation, Portland Place, on the 23rd June, and a long list of noble and distinguished persons is given as having attended. We wonder what those guests would have thought had they been informed that one of the sons of their friend and smiling host had only three weeks before that date figured as the instigator of one of the most serious riots in the Yangtze Valley. It was mentioned at the time that Hsien Fung-cheng was in the city when the riot broke out, and that he was in the city when the riot broke out, and that he was in the city when the riot broke out.

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The P. & O. steamer *Quadrant*, from Hongkong, left Singapore for this port on the 3rd inst. There were 2,372 passengers on the ship. The Agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) inform us that the steamer *Shanghai* left London for this port, left Singapore yesterday morning.

It is reported at Shanghai that a son of Hsien Fung-cheng, the Chinese Minister to the Court of St. James, who is likewise accredited to France, Italy, and Belgium, has been arrested on a charge of being a prominent member of a secret society, and is to be tried for this offence.

Confessions of other countries must also be taken into account. The Chinese Government has issued a notice to the effect that any person who should be guilty of any offence against the laws of Siam, or who should be guilty of any offence against the laws of any other country, should be liable to be punished by the laws of Siam.

The Court of Inquiry into the loss of the British ship *Falls of Dara* on the coast of Anhui, on the 23rd July, that the master, John McNeil, had committed an error of judgment in not taking sufficient precautions to prevent the disaster, and that the ship was lost in consequence of his error.

The London meeting of Lord Li (Li Ching-fang), at present Chinese Minister to Tokyo, did not open on the 19th inst. The meeting was held at the residence of Lord Li, and was attended by a large number of Chinese and foreign officials.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not feel ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.

LOCAL INTEREST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR—There is a rumour prevalent in the Colony that the directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation are contemplating the reduction of the rate of interest on loans, &c., from 7 to 6 per cent. per annum. We hope the rumour is correct, for should the proposed reduction be made we think it will greatly benefit this Colony and the trade of China generally.

Interest in China, like many other things, is founded on the basis of "no business, no money." The rate of interest is a matter of great importance to the Chinese, and it is not surprising that they should be so anxious to see it reduced. The rate of interest is a matter of great importance to the Chinese, and it is not surprising that they should be so anxious to see it reduced.

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RAIL.

MINING MANAGERS REPORT FOR FIVE WEEKS ENDING 15TH JULY, 1891.

To the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Gentlemen—At the date of my last report I had finished the work of the five weeks ending 15th July, 1891. I have now the pleasure to report to you the result of the work of the five weeks ending 15th July, 1891.

The work of the five weeks ending 15th July, 1891, has been a very successful one. The amount of the loan has been increased from £100,000 to £150,000. The amount of the loan has been increased from £100,000 to £150,000.

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